<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An image input/output control apparatus for performing input/output of image data, comprising:

<u>a</u> first image processing ~~means for converting~~ <u>unit adapted to generate a plurality of first image data packets by converting</u> image data inputted by an image input apparatus ~~to a plurality of image data packets~~;

<u>a</u> second image processing ~~means for performing~~ <u>unit adapted to perform</u> image processing on the <u>plurality of first</u> image data packets [[from]] <u>generated by</u> said first image processing [[means]] <u>unit to generate a plurality of second image data packets</u>;

<u>a</u> third image processing ~~means for generating~~ <u>unit adapted to generate</u> image data based on the plurality of <u>second</u> image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus;

<u>a</u> control ~~means for controlling~~ <u>unit adapted to control</u> storing-processing for storing the plurality of <u>second</u> image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the plurality of <u>second</u> image data packets from the storage apparatus ~~the input/output of the~~; <u>and</u>

<u>a</u> data transfer ~~means for connecting~~ <u>unit adapted to connect</u> said plural image processing [[means]] <u>units</u> and said control [[means]] <u>unit</u> like a ring and ~~for performing~~ <u>to</u>

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perform data transfer between said plural image processing [[means]] units and said control

[[means]] unit unidirectionally, wherein

said data transfer [[means]] unit transfers the plurality of first image data

packet packets and the plurality of second image data packets to one of said plural image

processing [[means]] units based on an identification information for identifying one of said

plural image processing [[means]] units added to the second image data packets, and

wherein one of said plural image processing [[means]] units performs image

processing on the first image data packets and the second image data packets which [[is]] are

transferred by said data transfer [[means]] units based on the identification information.

Claim 2. (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

said control means unit performs image processing setting for said plural image processing

means units through said data transfer [[means]] unit, and one of said plural image processing

[[means]] units performs image processing on the basis of the image processing setting.

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein

said control [[means]] unit generates a command packet in which a header including the

identification information is added to command data including image processing information to

perform the image processing setting for said plural image processing [[means]] units,

wherein said data transfer [[means]] unit transfers the command packet to one

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of said plural image processing [[means]] <u>units</u> corresponding to the identification information, and

wherein one of said plural image processing [[means]] <u>units</u> corresponding to the identification information performs the image processing based on the image processing information.

Claims 5 - 54. (canceled)

Claim 55. (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said second image processing [[means]] <u>unit</u> performs resolution conversion process on the plurality of <u>first</u> image data packets.

Claim 56. (currently amended): An image input/output ~~apparatus~~ <u>system</u> for performing input/output of image data, comprising:

an image input/output apparatus;

an image input apparatus for inputting image data to said image input/output apparatus; and

an image output apparatus for outputting image data inputted by said image input/output apparatus,

wherein said image input/output apparatus further comprises:

a first image processing unit adapted to ~~convert~~ <u>generate a plurality of</u> <u>first image data packets by converting</u> image data inputted by an image input apparatus ~~to a~~

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~~plurality of image data packets;~~

a second image processing unit adapted to perform image processing on the <u>plurality of first</u> image data packets [[from]] <u>generated by</u> said first image processing unit <u>to generate a plurality of second image data packets</u>;

a third image processing unit adapted to generate image data based on the plurality of <u>second</u> image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus;

a control unit adapted to control storing process for storing the plurality of <u>second</u> image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the plurality of <u>second</u> image data packets from the storage apparatus; and

a data transfer unit adapted to connect said plural image processing units and said control unit like a ring and to perform data transfer between said plural image processing units and said control unit unidirectionally, wherein

said data transfer unit transfers the <u>plurality of first</u> image data ~~packet~~ <u>packets and the plurality of second image data packets</u> to one of said plural image processing units based on an identification information for identifying one of said plural image processing units added to the <u>second</u> image data ~~packet~~ <u>packets</u>, and

~~wherein~~ one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the <u>first</u> image data ~~packet~~ <u>packets and the second image data packets</u> which [[is]] <u>are</u> transferred by said data transfer [[unit]] <u>units</u> based on the identification information.

Claim 57. (currently amended): ~~An apparatus~~ <u>system</u> according to Claim 56,

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wherein said control unit performs image processing setting for said plural image processing units through said data transfer unit, and one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the basis of the image processing setting.

Claim 58. (currently amended): An apparatus system according to Claim 57, wherein said control unit generates a command packet in which a header including the identification information is added to command data including image processing information to perform the image processing setting for said plural image processing units,

wherein said data transfer unit transfers the command packet to one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information, and

wherein one of said plural image processing [[unit]] units corresponding to the identification information performs the image processing based on the image processing information.

Claim 59. (currently amended): An apparatus system according to Claim 56, wherein said second image processing unit performs resolution conversion process on the first plurality of image data packets.